

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE FORT MYERS - LEE COUNTY GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.
2166 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT MYERS, FL 33901

Berne Davis Botanical Garden

Open to the Public
Tuesday Garden Walks
10 am- 1 pm



**Free Admission
& Parking !**

Handicap parking is
on Virginia Avenue.
Regular parking is on
Larchmont Avenue.

Bring all your friends!

Social distancing and
wearing of masks is
required.

We hope you enjoy
your visit and thanks
for working with us
during these
challenging times.

President's Message

Happy New Year!!!!

I hope everyone enjoyed a nice Christmas or Hanukkah
and rang in a Happy & Healthy New Year!

I think we're all pretty happy to be moving on from 2020.
In the spirit of moving on, we are in Phase One of a
refurbishment of our Berne Davis Garden! Over the
years, many of the plants have outlived their expected
term. Others, like the Birds of Paradise are grossly over-
grown. Trees have filled in and formerly sunny spots are
now shaded. The overall shape and structure of the
garden just generally needs to be refreshed. With many
thanks to Debbie Hughes and Greg Durdak, we have
developed a refurbishment plan with new plants, flowers,
& points of interest. We will implement it section by
section. As you read this, Phase 1 which begins as you
enter the Garden by the fountain to just past the Birds of
Paradise on the right and Lorelei on the left, is under
construction. Some pictures are included in this news-
letter. Once we have this area established and doing
well, we'll move on to the next section. Please be sure to
come some Tuesday and check it all out!

Also, be sure to join us for our Jan. 8 General Meeting.
While we had hoped to begin meeting together by this
point, Covid numbers led us to decide
to continue with a Zoom only format
for this meeting. We will continue to
assess the situation. Our program
this month sounds great and our
2020 FGCU scholarship recipient will
join us for a visit. Please be sure to
give her a warm welcome!

Learning, Growing, Sharing,



For The Latest Info Check Our Website
WWW.FMLCGARDENCOUNCIL.COM

G a r d e n C o u n c i l M e e t i n g D a t e s

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs)

- Date: Jan. 5th, 2021
- Date: Feb. 5th, 2021

MEETING FROM 9:30am - 11:30am

Via ZOOM

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

For All Society and Club Members.
Please invite a spouse or friend .

ALL are Welcome !

Friday, Jan. 8, 2021

Via ZOOM

GENERAL MEETINGS

The 2nd Friday Every Other Month
September Through May

Location :

Garden Council Headquarters
2166 Virginia Ave.

HOSPITALITY: 9:00 am to 9:30 am

MEETING: 9:30 am to 11:30 am



NEXT FMLCGC GENERAL MEETING

Friday January 8, 2021

Program By CL Fornari, a garden author and speaker
"Garden Myths, Lies and all the latest Dirt"

CONGRATULATIONS!



GARDEN CLUB OF CAPE CORAL DEDICATES THE BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER.

The Garden Club of Cape Coral dedicated the Blue Star Memorial Marker, paying tribute to the Armed Forces, Past, Present, and Future on November 30th at the Eco Park Pavilion. This dedication coincided with Cape Coral's 50th Anniversary. The Ceremony started at 1:30 with veterans from the Armed Forces, the City of Cape Coral, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Cape Coral.

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. started the program in 1945 after World War II. The Blue Star was used on service flags to denote a service member fighting in the war. Today, we now have this Blue Star Memorial Marker for all the Armed Forces.

The public is encouraged to visit the Blue Star Memorial Marker which is surrounded by more than one hundred beautiful red and white flowers at Eco Park...Just off Veteran's Parkway... 2500 SE 24th St. in Cape Coral.

Edison - Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers FL 33901

Web: EdisonFord.org

Monthly Garden Talks

Saturdays 10am

Jan 9th, 2021- "Using Containers & Hypertufa Pots"
\$10 for EF Members; \$15 for Non-Members
Participants get a 20% off Garden Shoppe coupon

Gardening Classes 1:30pm

Jan 12th & 19th "Intro to Florida Gardening"
Parts 1 & 2 (combo cost is \$50 or \$75 non-members)

Feb 9th "Choosing & Caring for Palm Trees in SWFL"
Cost: members: \$35; non-members: \$50
(See website for location & fees; registration required)

Special Events

February 13-14, 2021-Edison Garden Festival

Saturday & Sunday 9am –4pm

Featuring food trucks, live music and more than 40 vendors from around the state of Florida. You will find many types of plants and trees. Parking and admission to festival are free! (does not include tours or admission to the museum and lab)

Reminders from Lakes Park



1st Saturday Bird Walks 12 months a year. 8am.
Meet at shelter A7—**On hold due to Covid**

2nd Saturday Guided Garden Walks - **On hold due to Covid**

Wednesdays Farmers Market runs October through April 9am– 1pm!
Please adhere to CDC guidelines. Grab and Go style food.

Newsflash———CEO Erin White Moves on

Congratulations are in order for Erin White our CEO of four years for her new position at the Naples Botanic Garden. Erin has done so much work in her time with us bringing us into the 21st century and elevating us to a higher level of professionalism. Thank you Erin for all you have done for us in the last four years and we wish you good luck at your new position. Our loss is The Botanic Garden's gain.



Please see our new website!
<https://basfbees.weebly.com>

Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida can use your help.

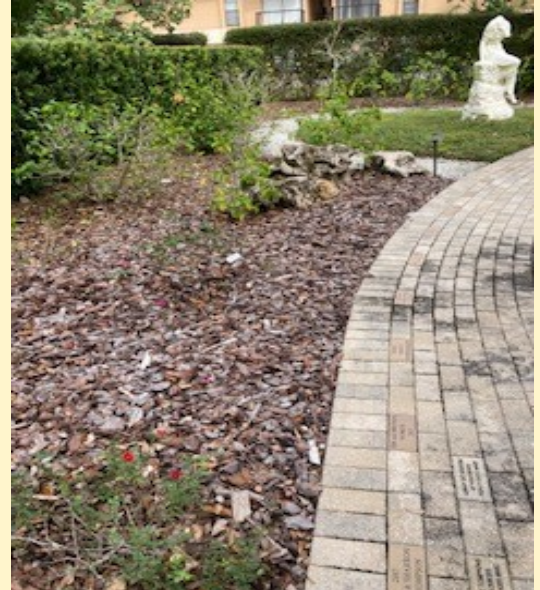
Please DONATE to support our group's efforts.

We are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization and your donations are tax deductible!

Berne Davis Garden Refurbishment

The Berne Davis Garden was established in 2006 – 2007. That's about 14 years ago now and oh how our Garden has grown! Some areas have flourished a bit too much, like our Birds of Paradise. Other areas are now shady where sun was needed. Some plants were barely surviving, never mind thriving and the birds contributed seed drops of surprise specimens throughout the garden. It was time for a refresh!

Fortunately, we are in good hands with local experts such as Debbie Hughes and her partner Greg Durdak, who listened to our concerns and came up with a plan to keep the basic structure and concept of our Garden, but respond to the current situation and refresh areas as needed. We are implementing the plan in phases.



HORTICULTURE FEATURE

An overlooked gem: Kalanchoe Bella Beauty

By Sandy Troy

K. Bella Beauty has marvelous blooms, adorable leaves and requires good indirect light. As a succulent, Bella requires less water. Bella grows nicely in the ground and beautifully in planters especially when you do not want to water frequently. This is a great plant for window boxes (indirect light) and planters on your lanai where you do not want to frequently water. To keep her bushy, I keep her clipped back short. If you let Bella grow over 6 inches, unpruned, this succulent will start to take on an interesting leggy look. Keep her clipped back for a bushy look. Photos of K. Bella Beauty in planters and in the ground.

Sandy Troy belongs to The Poinciana Garden Club and Royal Palm Garden Club. She teaches workshops/programs at garden clubs.





THE WORLD IS YOURS TO EXPLORE a Standard Flower Show

Mark your calendars for March 5 and 6, the dates of the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council Headquarters Flower Show. Our show will be open to the public on Friday, **March 5** from 1-4pm, and on Saturday, **March 6** from 10am-3pm and will comply with appropriate safety protocols. The show honors Garden Council President Judy Francino's love of travel with the theme "The World is Yours to Explore".

We hope all of our members will consider showing their creativity and/or gardening skills by entering the show with either horticulture, floral design, or botanical arts. You can find a copy of the full design schedule on our website which will provide more specifics about the show.

In our Design Division, we created classes that should appeal to people with varying design interests and skills. We specifically created Class D to appeal to novices (defined as someone who hasn't already won a blue ribbon), in hope that the requirements will be less intimidating.

Section A - Class 1 - River Cruises: a multi-Rhythmic Design

Section A - Class 2 - Come Fly With Me: Framed Spatial Design

Section A - Class 3 - Sailing the Oceans Blue: Angular Design

Section B - Class 4 - Repast: Table Setting for one, suggesting a particular culture

Section B - Class 5 - Camp Cocktail - on Safari: Tray design with a drink for one

Section B - Class 6 - North-South-East-West-Wherever you want to be, except home!

: Exhibition Table

Section C - Class 7 - Spice Bazaar - 5" petite design

Section C - Class 8 - Souvenirs - 8" petite design

Section C - Class 9 - Dive Treasures - 12" underwater design

Section D - Class 10 - Topical Island - a featured plant material design

Section E - Class 11 - The Arctic - line design

Section F - Class 12 - Stranded in the Desert - a featured plant material design

If you would like to enter a design in the show, please notify Janice Miller (rdjemiller@gmail.com) or Paula Novander (pnovander@yahoo.com).

If floral design isn't really your thing, you might consider entering the Botanical Arts Division.

Class 1 - Travel Gear - a decorated hat (supplied by the exhibitor)

Class 2 - Travel Memories - a decorated 12 x 12 scrapbook page (supplied by the exhibitor)

Class 3 - Travel Topiary

More specifics can be found in the flower show schedule. If you'd like to submit an entry, please notify Carol Lowery (gelowery2002@yahoo.com) or Bonnie McClure (bonmclure@hotmail.com).

Our Horticulture Division is quite extensive, so almost anything you grow would be eligible to be entered as a specimen in the show. More specifics can be found in the flower show schedule or you can contact Paula Novander (pnovander@yahoo.com) with questions.

We're working to have a show that appeals to all. March weather should be great, and some of the show will be outside so you can enjoy the beauty of the Berne Davis Gardens as well as see designs and horticulture specimens from club members, educational exhibits and enjoy some hospitality.

We hope to see you there!

Susan Lawson, Janice Miller and Paula Novander, FMLCGC Flower Show co-chairs

FMLCGC Calendar - Dates to Remember

JANUARY 15, 2021 Friday **FLORIDA ARBOR DAY**

Jan. 15-17th, 2021 Friday-Sunday Tamiami Orchid Festival has been POSTPONED until October 1st - 3rd, 2021

Jan. 16, 2021 Saturday-American Hibiscus Society Winter Hibiscus Sale at Covenant Presbyterian is CANCELLED.

Mar. 5-6, 2021 Friday-Saturday, NGC Flower Show "The World is Yours to Explore", FMLCGC,

Mar. 13, 2021 Saturday-Poinciana Garden Club Yard Sale, FMLCGC, 9am-5pm

Mar. 13, 2021 Saturday-Garden Club of Cape Coral's "March in the Park", Plant & Garden Sale-Jaycee Park 9am-3pm

Mar. 13, 2021 Saturday-Alva Garden Club's, Annual Plant/Bake Sale & Strawberry Shortcake Festival 9am-1pm, Alva Museum

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Royal Palm Garden Club is planning to do Zoom meetings in January and February 2021.

Estero Island Garden Club activities and upcoming events by Paula Smith, President

In spite of the pandemic, the EIGC has been busy! We recently participated in a community event that supported many of our local nonprofits. We created a winning "holiday" tree for auction and our members donated plants from their gardens, dressed for the holidays, for an outdoor sale. We also hosted a holiday Zoom social so members could visit and say hello to friends! We have had several outdoor events this past fall including a tour of the Native Plant Society's demonstration garden at the Cutting Horse Eco Center in Bonita Springs. We are including Zoom meetings and presentations starting with Tony Mauriello and his discussion on plant propagation. We also want to give members the opportunity to visit each other's gardens in a safe manner by scheduling times for each garden. In February, members will have the chance to participate in a virtual class offered by the Lee County Extension Master Gardeners on Florida Friendly Landscaping. Encouraging the use of native and Florida friendly plants in our gardens has been one of the goals for the club. We are also looking forward to having an outdoor meeting at the Garden Council so our new members can see the beautiful Berne Davis Botanical Garden and explore the gardens of the Edison Ford Winter Estates. Our club is also planning the installation of our Blue Star Memorial Plaque on the grounds of the Fort Myers Beach Library in May 2021. We have added several new members to our club this year and we look forward to the New Year as we watch our gardens grow!

Members of the **Alva Garden Club** decorated the Alva Library and Museum for the holidays. The club's civic project is the maintenance of local historical exhibits in the museum and acting as docents on Saturday afternoons when the museum is open to visitors.



See the following websites:

<http://alvagardenclub.org> &
<http://alvagardenclub.org>.

Royal Palm Garden Club had nine members and one guest gather at the Boat House open air Tiki Hut on Rt. 31 in Fort Myers on Dec. 17th for their annual Holiday Luncheon and Plant Exchange. The restaurant was very accommodating regarding the COVID requirements. It was nice to get out and see friends. We hope everyone has had a Safe Holiday Season and 2021 brings relief and hope for a brighter future!



From all the members of **Shell Island Garden Club**, we also are wishing everyone a Happier & Healthy New Year!!

Lisa Cochrane
President

BDHSA REMINDER!

It is time to think about who you would like to nominate for the 2021 Berne Davis Honorary Service Awards.
Criteria and Rules can be found on our website.

Please submit your nominees to Mitzi Marckesano no later than Feb 22nd.
In lieu of a Luncheon, Recipients will be announced at the March 12th General Meeting.

Your Board Members

President-

Judy Francino 248 425-8713
Email: jfrancino@att.net

Second Vice-President-

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